



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

NOMURA et al.

Serial No. 09/857,795

Filed: July 19, 2001

For: MEDICINAL COMPOSITIONS FOR ORAL USE

Atty. Ref.: 159-6

Group: 1615

Examiner: Pullian

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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January 23, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attention is invited to the attached four U.S. patents cited in a communication mailed December 6, 2002 in a counterpart European patent application. A completed Form PTO-1449 is also enclosed.

Official citation and consideration of all the attached documents is requested.

Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

I hereby certify that each item of information contained herein was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months from the filing date of this statement [see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (1)].

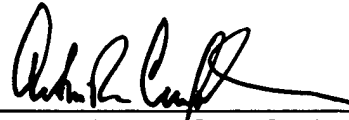
The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g) and (h)] or that no other material information exists.

NOMURA et al.
Serial No. 09/857,795

Respectfully submitted,

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